

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Jordan Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

January 1988

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1.

C/Ops

19 Feb

B *[initials]*

2.

3.

C/E&PS

23 Feb

I

4.

DD/FBIS

2/23

C

5.

D/FBIS

R

6.

7.

PO/RA

2/23

Om

8.

SA/CD

2/24

Art *[initials]*

9.

10.

C/AS

25 Feb

CD

11.

12.

C/AG

1/3

m *[initials]*

13.

Admin Staff

14.

C/B&F

15.

Exec. Reg.

FORM
1-79

610

USE PREVIOUS
EDITIONS

GPO : 1983 O - 411-632

FBIS-4004-88
3 February 1988



MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Jordan Bureau--January 1987

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I. General

A. The groundbreaking ceremony marking the start of construction for the 40-million dollar new embassy project in Abdoun, Amman, was held on 19 January with Ambassador Roscoe Suddarth presiding along with the guest of honor, Amman Mayor Ra'uf al-Rawabdah. It was attended by a large number of Jordanian officials from various government departments as well as the American and Jordanian employees of the embassy. The project will be completed in mid-1990 and will consist of seven buildings, including a chancery, a chancery annex [redacted], an ambassador's residence and a warehouse. USIS and USAID will also be included on the grounds.

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B. Mission employees received with mixed emotions the news this month of the post's reduction from a 15% post differential to 10%, presumably owing to a decline in security problems over the recent past. On the other hand, Amman will receive a boost to a 20% COLA (which is far less than that figure seems) from the previous 10%. In the last six months, the COLA figure has fluctuated from 10 to 5 to 10 to 20%, reflecting to some extent uncertainties about the strength of the dollar and the dinar and the very high cost of living in Amman.

C. In the course of the month USIS began operating a 4.5 meter satellite dish used primarily for receiving Worldnet signals. A certain amount of late night taping of U.S. football games relayed from AFRTS in Italy was also undertaken, with the results shown the following evening at the American Club. The Super Bowl was also shown live to a small crowd at the American Center in the wee hours of Monday morning 1 February. The advent of this dish promises some limited relief from the cultural and sporting isolation of Jordan.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Amman Television Service in English at 2012 GMT on 29 January carried an interview given some days previously by King Husayn to unidentified correspondents from ABC Television and

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THE WASHINGTON POST. Focusing on the situation in the occupied territories and U.S. policy toward the Middle East, the king criticized the United States, saying: "The United States has lost very much of its credibility if not all. One would hope that this would change but one can only hope, I suppose. The bureau's operations were extended by two hours to complete priority filing of the interview in five takes.

2. A new radio station identifying itself as Al-Quds (Jerusalem) Palestinian Arab radio was first monitored on 1 January. Initially, broadcasts included mostly Western music and Lebanese and Palestinian patriotic songs. On 12 January, the station began broadcasting news items on the situation in the occupied Arab territories. To date the station has not been observed to identify its affiliation with any of the Palestinian movement factions. Since the station is still not following a regular program pattern, the bureau is maintaining an open watch on the radio during its 0700-1200 and 1400-1800 GMT daily transmissions. It has also been fascinating to observe the intense popular interest this station has aroused locally with cab drivers and many others glued to its 702 medium wave frequency. Speculation here is that the station's equipment was supplied by Al-Qadhdhafi via Syria for use by the PLO back before the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, and that it is now being used by the PFLP-GC, Ahmad Jibril's group, and broadcasting from Syria, or less possibly from Syrian-controlled Lebanon. MOD has congratulated the bureau for keeping on top of the developing issue.

3. On 15 January following a month-long comparison of English-language Kuwaiti dailies ARAB TIMES and KUWAIT TIMES, the bureau dropped its coverage of the KUWAIT TIMES and assumed primary coverage responsibilities for the ARAB TIMES, the sister paper of Kuwait's AL-SIYASAH. The ARAB TIMES is currently being received with a 1-2 day lag and has proven to be a more productive source than its predecessor.

B. Lateral Services

1. The current situation on the West Bank and the initiation of (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestine Arab Radio has resulted in numerous ad hoc requests from embassy consumers. The ambassador, DCM, political officers, and others are receiving direct delivery of wirefiled items, cruising reports, FYI's, and frequency lists from Jordan and other field bureaus, especially Tel Aviv.

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III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. The bureau is continuing recruiting efforts to fill three vacant monitorial slots. We thought we had hired two excellent prospects in December. However, after a day and a half on the job one of them announced that he was far too good a translator to be required to research names, titles, and placenames. We therefore, with all due speed, parted company. Our next candidate for the opening was turned down by security, but we believe we have yet another promising candidate, who is now undergoing preliminary processing. Our candidate for the final slot has been identified and we are now waiting for the appropriate timing, probably in April, to bring her on board. The training of [] is going very well. After we get the training of the second prospect well under way, we intend to hire the third and commence her training.

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2. Bureau Electronics Technician [] father died on 29 January after a long illness. A number of the bureau's personnel, including the chief, attended the mourning ceremonies and paid their condolences to the family.

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IV. VISITS

1. To the bureau: G. Kowalski, DC/FED, 9-10 January; Frank Schwab, site manager for the construction of the new embassy, 10 January.

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[]
Jordan Bureau Chief

Attachment:
Production Report

Amman Bureau Production Report for JANUARY 1988

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	348210
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	78030
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	861

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:	7705.00	21060.00	153.00
(minutes or issues per week)	min.	min.	issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

BAHRAIN

Manama WAKH in Arabic	17280
Manama WAKH in English	430

CLANDESTINE

Clandestine (CLANDESTINE) Al-Quds	
Palestinian Arab Radio in English	2380
Clandestine (CLANDESTINE) al-quds	
Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic	14400

EGYPT

Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic	690
Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic	0
Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic	5830
Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic	3270
Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic	2720
Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic	1460
Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic	1030
Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic	0
Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic	180

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
FRANCE			
Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic	14270		
Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic			3930
Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic			10480
IRAQ			
Baghdad Voice of National Alliance in Arabic	510		
Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic	25230		
Baghdad Voice of the PLO IN Arabic	19330		
Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic	3480		
Baghdad INA in Arabic		23920	
Baghdad INA in English		1590	
Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic			0
Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic			1550
Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic			800
Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic			0
ISRAEL			
Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World	3820		
JORDAN			
Amman Domestic Service in Arabic	9840		
Amman Domestic Service in English	220		
Amman Television Service in Arabic	7390		
Amman Television Service in English	7000		
Amman Petra-JNA in Arabic		2990	

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic			0
Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic			14100
Amman AL-QUDS in Arabic			1280
Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic			13660
Amman JORDAN TIMES in English			10170
Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic			2980
Amman THE JERUSALEM STAR in English			1700
KUWAIT			
Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic			5320
Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic			8710
Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic			50
Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic			16410
Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic			0
Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English			2390
OMAN			
Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic	4670		
Muscat QNA in Arabic			0
QATAR			
Doha QNA in Arabic			0
SAUDI ARABIA			
Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic			7880
Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic			0
SUDAN			
Khartoum KUNA in English to KUNA Kuwait			0

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Khartoum SUNA in Arabic		9410	
Khartoum SUNA in English		7200	
 SYRIA			
Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic	26540		
Damascus Television Service in Arabic	4170		
Damascus SANA in Arabic		1670	
 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES			
Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic	5930		
Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic		610	
Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic			740
Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic			5590
Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic			0
Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic			3150
 YEMEN (YAR)			
Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic	4930		
Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic	2930		